

**HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**13 April 2022
Virtual Meeting**

Attendees: Lord Bew, Baroness Browning, Lord Clark, Baroness Parminter, Lord Chartres, Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, Secretariat and Press Officer

Apologies: None

Minutes for publication

1. The Commission approved for publication the minutes of the HOLAC meetings which took place on 11 February 2021, 14 September 2021, 1 November 2021 and 15 December 2021. These would be published on the Commission's website. The Commission registered its wish to publish minutes more quickly in future.

Secretariat Update

2. The Secretariat provided an update on recent business.
3. **FOI:** There were a growing number of FOIs, including ones relating to specific individuals. The Secretariat would keep Commission members informed.
4. **Crossbench nominees:** The nominees recommended for the crossbenches in December had still not been approved. The Commission instructed the Secretariat to escalate efforts to obtain approval.
5. **Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee:** Lord Bew was to give evidence to PACAC in a one-off session on 20 April. It was understood that PACAC wished to establish an evidence basis for the way in which peerage appointments were vetted. The Commissioners agreed that Lord Bew should be as candid as possible in his evidence, without overstepping the legal framework governing protection of confidentiality about individuals. The Commission stood behind its vetting process. Commissioners agreed that it was not appropriate to comment on individuals' vetting without compromising confidentiality and protected information; but wanted to be as open as possible about the processes under which the Commission completed its work. The Commission had representatives of all significant groupings within the House of Lords. Commissioners nominated by political parties served in their own right rather than to represent their political affiliation, and brought their own personal experience and values to the work of the Commission.

6. The Humble Address motion on Lord Lebedev's peerage appointment:

Members noted that the motion which had passed on 29 March 2022 required the Government to release information on Lord Lebedev's appointment, explicitly including HOLAC material, but less national security redactions. The Commission would consider the matter further once the Government had laid information in response to the motion.

Register of Interests

7. Commission members were asked to review the register of interests and provide updates to the Secretariat.

House of Lords Appointments Commission Website

8. The website had been reviewed for accessibility and would be reworked to make information easier to access.

Press

9. There had been significant press coverage of peerage appointments.

AOB

10. There was no AOB but the following additional actions were noted during the meeting:

- The next report of the Commission's work would be produced for the summer.
- The Secretariat would consider how to work with vetting bodies to enhance a shared understanding of the Commission's work.